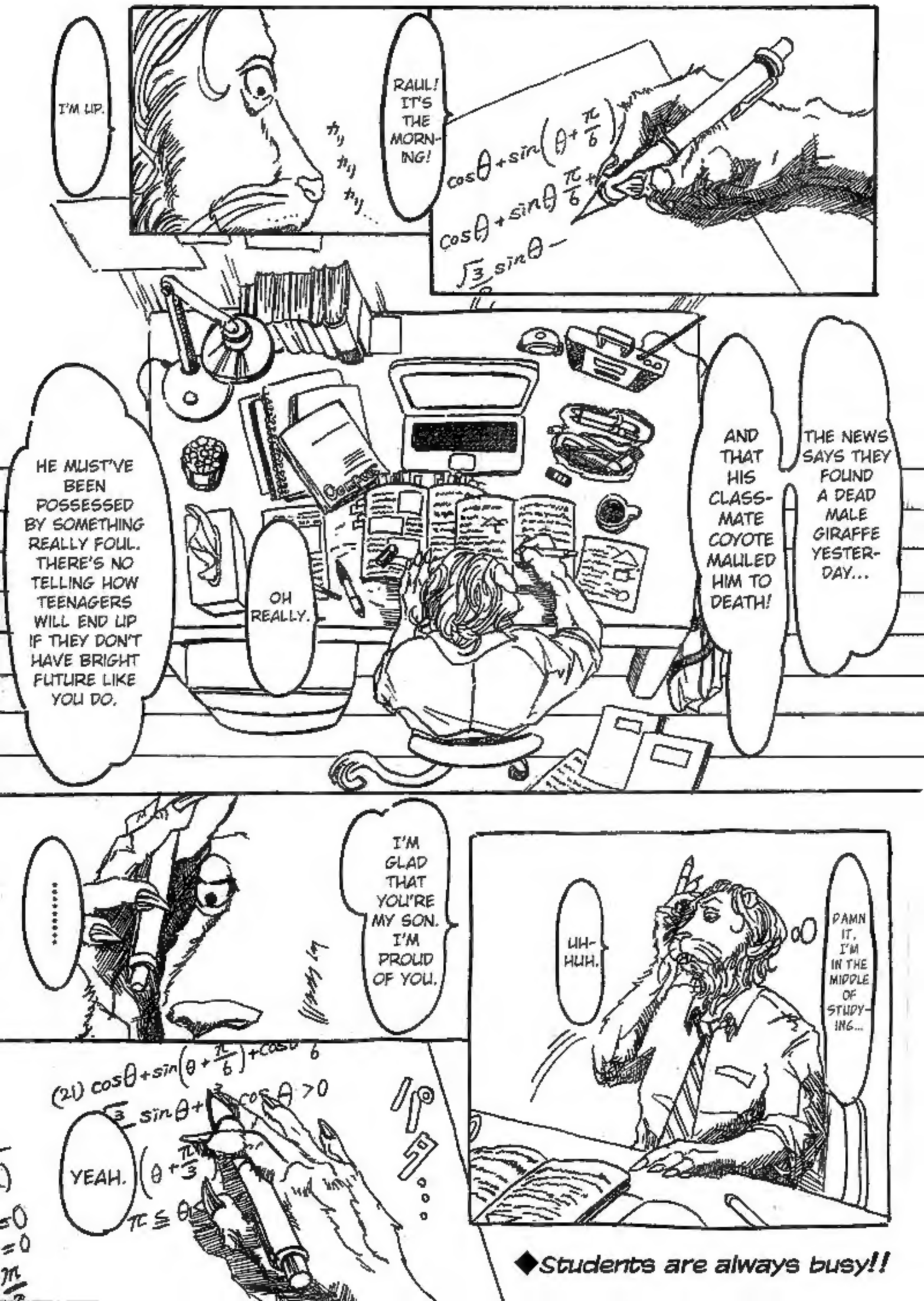
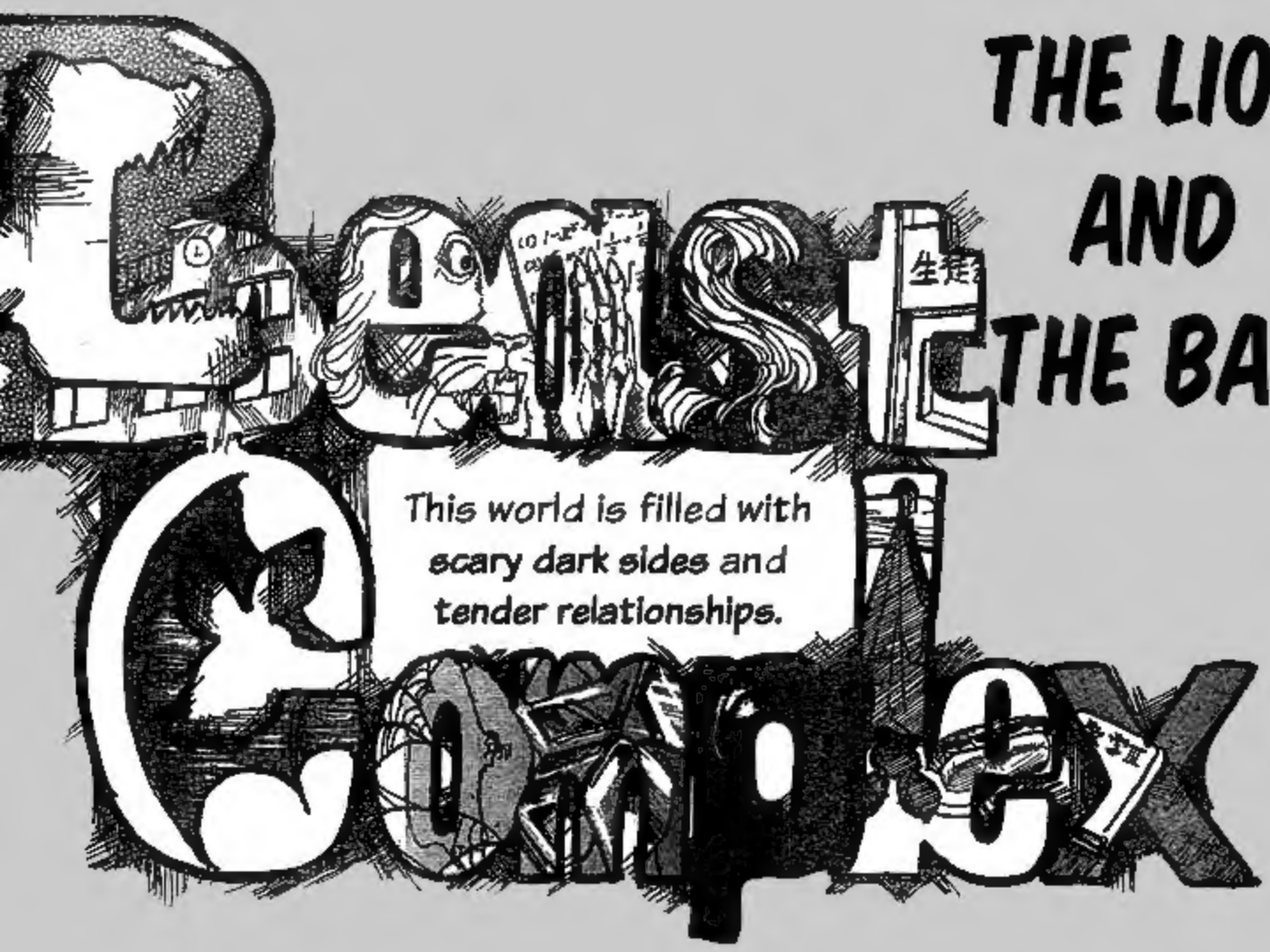


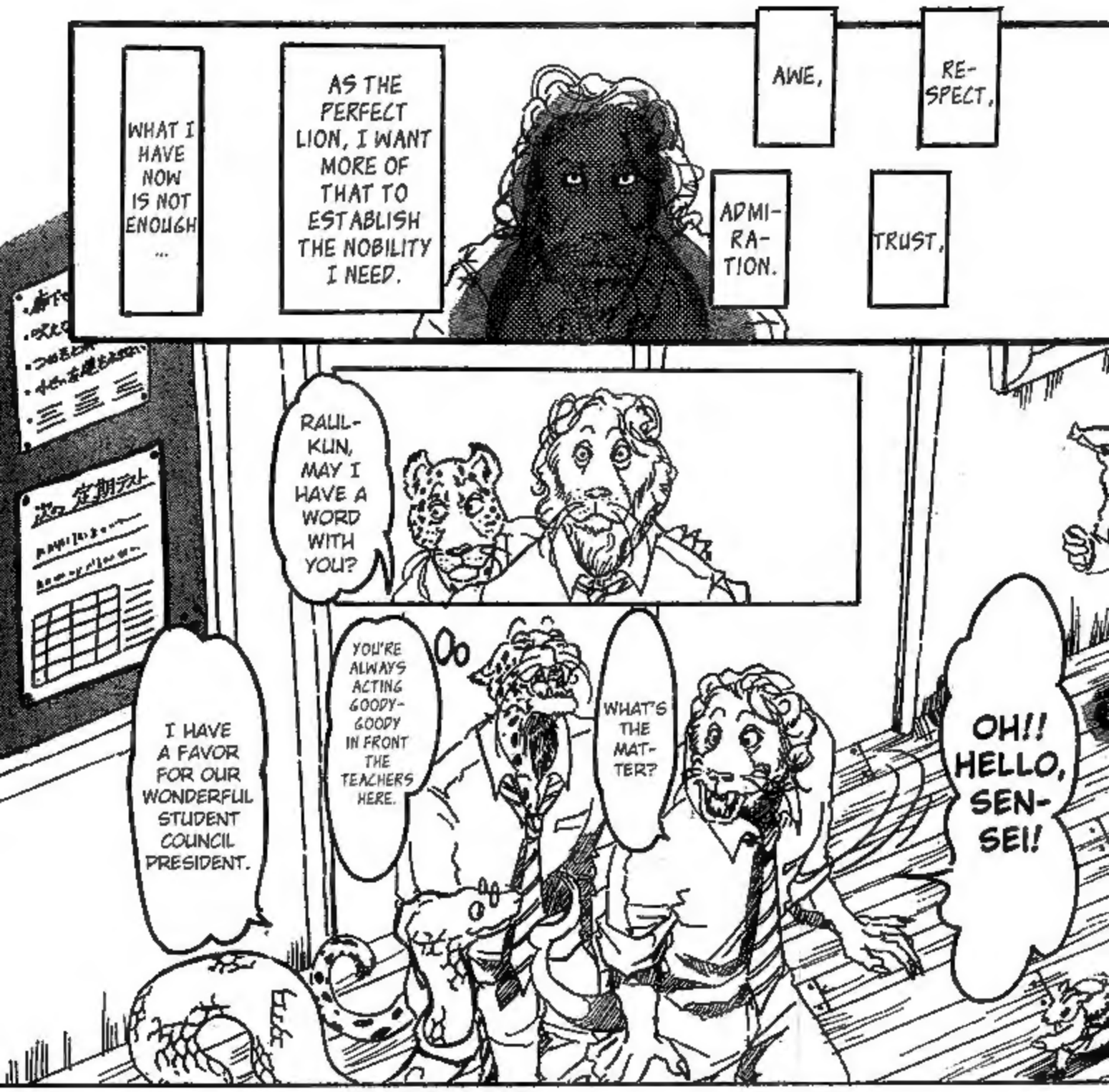
◆*Students are always busy!!*

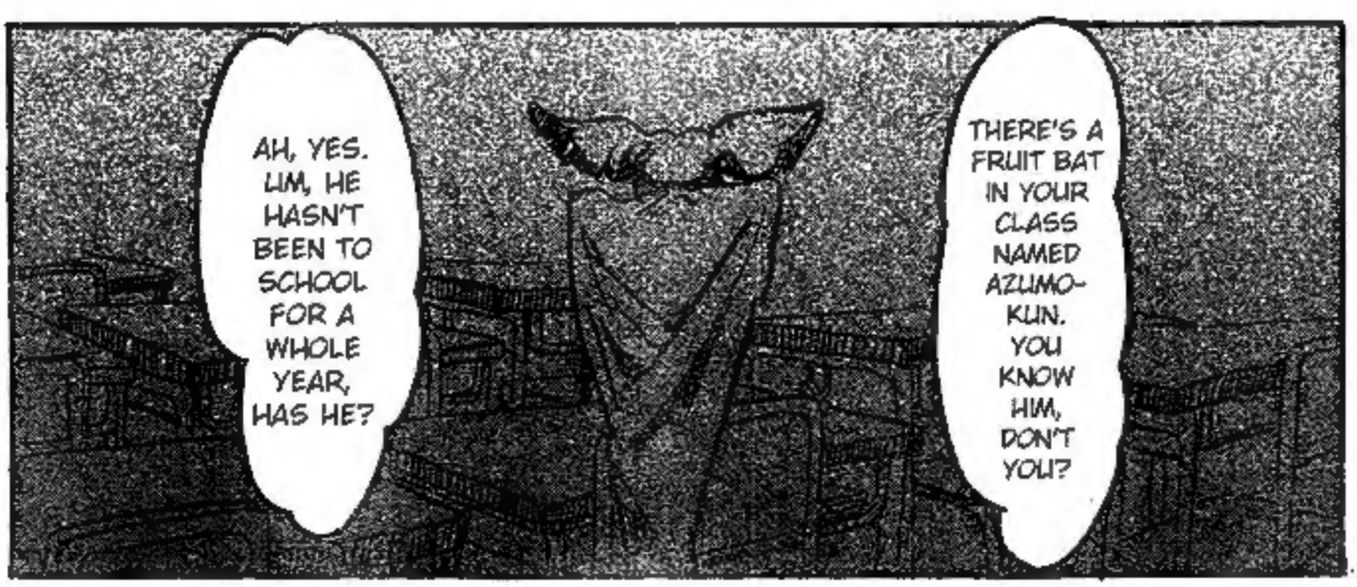
CHAPTER 1: THE LION AND THE BAT



SALTWATER AND NILE CROCODILES FROM THE GULF COAST HAVE BODY TEMPERATURES THAT RANGE FROM 60 TO 70 DEGREES...
HEY, RAUL!
AND THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT.
GOOD MORN-ING!!
GOOD MORN-ING.
GOOD MORN-ING, RAUL.
I'M A LION,
CAN AC-COM-PLISH ANY-THING.
THE KING OF BEASTS
Raul-kun♡
21

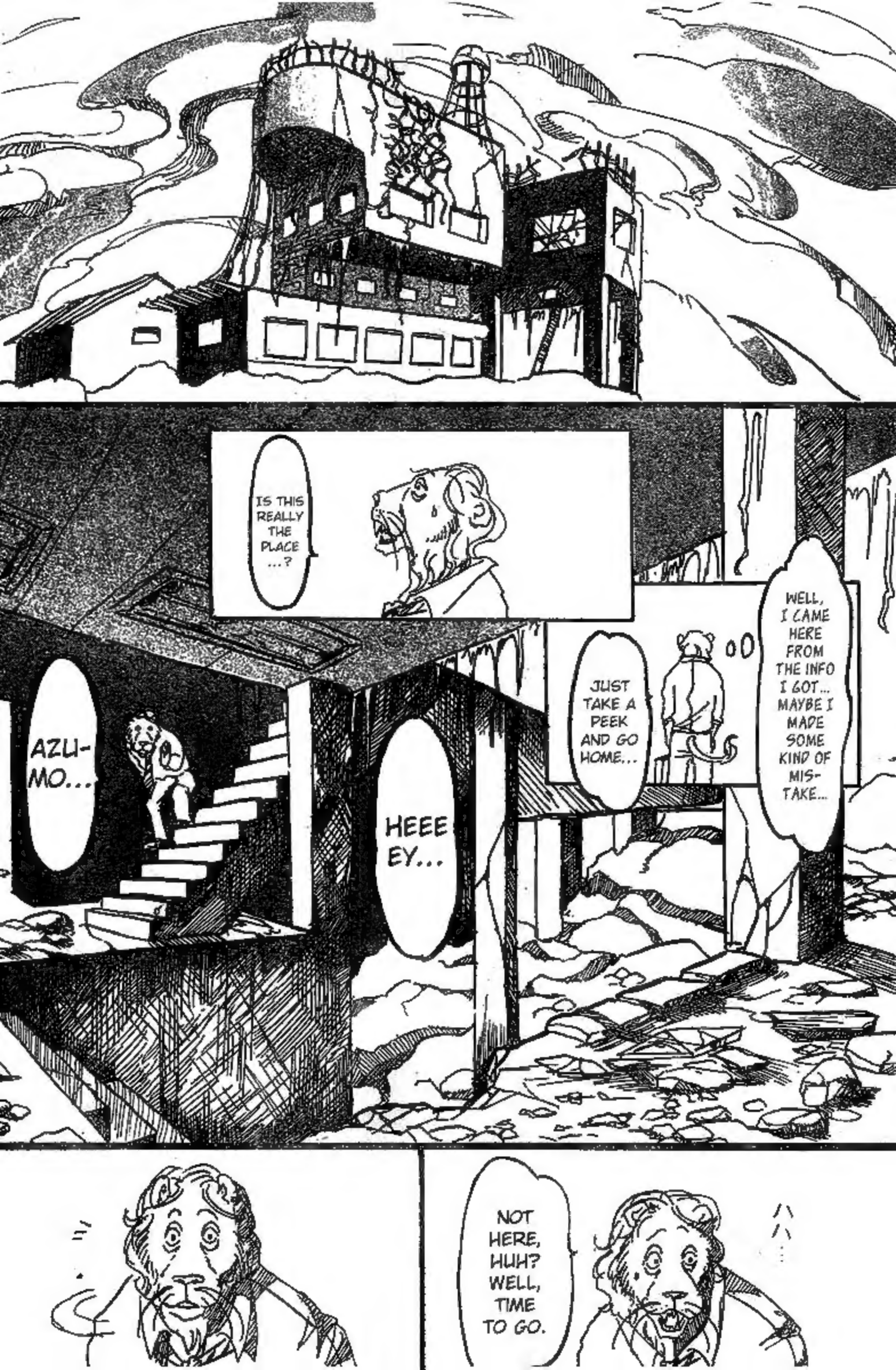
I DON'T HAVE ANY ENE-MIES.
I'M POPU-LAR.
LET'S HANG OUT AFTER SCHOOL.
RAUL!
WHENEVER YOU'RE LIKE THIS, IT'S HARD TO BREATHE IN YOUR SPACE.
WHAT, TODAY, TOO?! CAN'T YOU TAKE A BREAK?
SORRY, I NEED TO GO TO CRAM SCHOOL AFTER THIS.
YES, EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE CUB, I'VE LIVED FOR THE SAKE OF GETTING APPROVAL FROM THE ANIMALS AROUND ME.
I HAVE NEVER FELT OVER-WHELMED BEFORE.
Ooo
HEY, NO, NO!
WELL, THANKS. I BET YOU CAN FIND SOME OTHER GUY TO HANG OUT WITH.


WHAT I HAVE NOW IS NOT ENOUGH ...
AS THE PERFECT LION, I WANT MORE OF THAT TO ESTABLISH THE NOBILITY I NEED.
AWE,
RE-SPECT,
ADMI-RA-TION.
TRUST,
RAUL-KUN, MAY I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU?
I HAVE A FAVOR FOR OUR WONDERFUL STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT.
YOU'RE ALWAYS ACTING GOODY-GOODY IN FRONT THE TEACHERS HERE.
WHAT'S THE MAT-TER?
OH!! HELLO, SEN-SEI!


AH, YES. UM, HE HASN'T BEEN TO SCHOOL FOR A WHOLE YEAR, HAS HE?
THERE'S A FRUIT BAT IN YOUR CLASS NAMED AZUMO-KUN. YOU KNOW HIM, DON'T YOU?

IT'D BE EASIER FOR HIM TO OPEN HIS HEART TO A CLASS-MATE, DON'T YOU THINK?
COULD YOU GO TO HIS HOUSE AND CONVINCE HIM TO COME TO SCHOOL?
HE HAS TO TAKE HIS EXAMS NEXT YEAR.
PAIN!
BUT WE'VE NEVER REALLY TALKED THAT MUCH BEFORE, SO I THINK IT MAY HAVE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT...
A
WELL, OF COURSE, I'D LIKE TO GO...
WHAT
...OHH...
YOU'RE TRYING TO GET INTO SAVANNY UNIVERSITY, AREN'T YOU?
Now's the time to show that off!!
SHUT UP...
What're you saying?!! Aren't you the student council presi-dent?!
BUT WITH A COLLEGE LIKE THAT, YOU'LL NEED GOOD *REPORTS* IN YOUR CURRICULAR RECORD, RAUL-KUN.
THAT WON'T BE A PROB-LEM FOR YOU, WITH YOUR GRADES.
UH, YES.

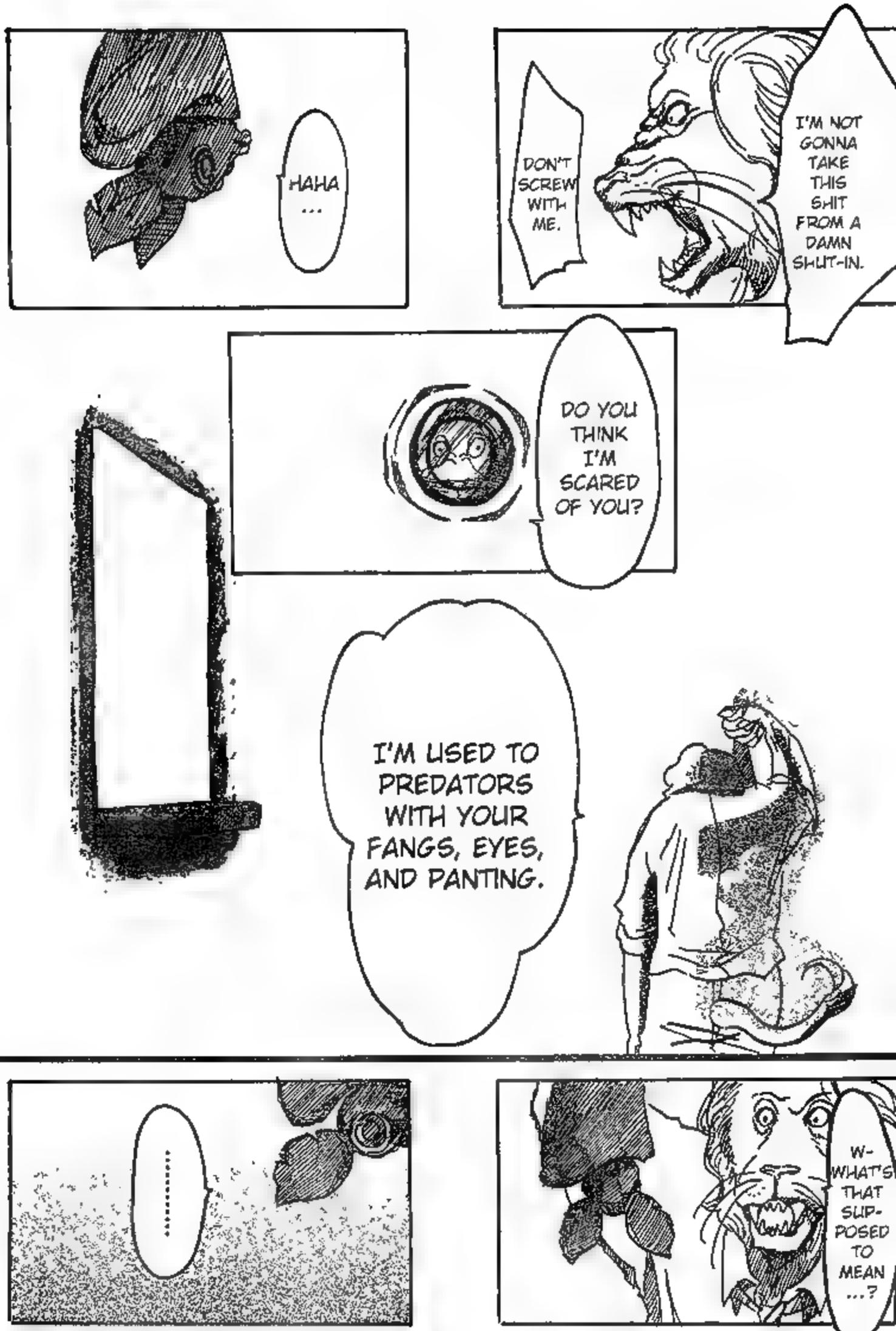
IF YOU WANT TO HAVE AN EXCEPTIONAL RECORD, YOU'LL NEED TO BRING BACK AT LEAST ONE FRUIT BAT HERE.
DAMN SNAKE.
OKAY ...
HOW DARE YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE OF STUDENTS.
I SAW HIM GO INSIDE A WORN-OUT BUILDING.
OH, I HEARD AZUMO-KUN LEFT HIS HOUSE AND LIVES BY HIMSELF.
IT'S DEAD OBVIOUS.
YOU'RE JUST PUSHING THAT BUSINESS TO ME 'CAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO DEAL WITH IT!!
?
.....
PHEW ...
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE ANY OTHER CHOICE BUT TO DO AS HE SAYS...


IS THIS REALLY THE PLACE ...?
AZU-MO...
HEEE EY...
JUST TAKE A PEEK AND GO HOME...
WELL, I CAME HERE FROM THE INFO I GOT... MAYBE I MADE SOME KIND OF MIS-TAKE...
NOT HERE, HUH? WELL, TIME TO GO.

WHOA!
DID YOU COME HERE TO EAT ME?
AZU-MO...
-KUN ...
A-
.....
YOU'RE AN INTRUDER. WHAT DID YOU COME HERE FOR?
MAN, YOU SCARED ME... IF YOU'RE HERE, THEN YOU SHOULD'VE ANSWERED ME.
SHIT, A CLASS-MATE JUST SAW ME ACT LAME...
.....
.....
THE TEACHERS ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOU. I'M THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT, SO I FIGURED I COULD DO SOMETHING TO HELP YOU..
HUH. WHAT DID I COME HERE FOR, EH?

WHY AREN'T YOU COMING TO SCHOOL? IF THERE'S ANYONE BULLYING YOU, I COULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT! L-LET ME HELP YOU!
EVEN MORE THAN I IMAG-INED.
YOU HAVE A SHALLOW MINDSET.
WHAT?!
...
ESPECIALLY SINCE BEING A LION IS THE ONLY THING YOU'RE PROUD ABOUT YOURSELF...
IN THE 17 YEARS OF YOUR LIFE, YOU MUST'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED TRUE SADNESS OR PAIN.

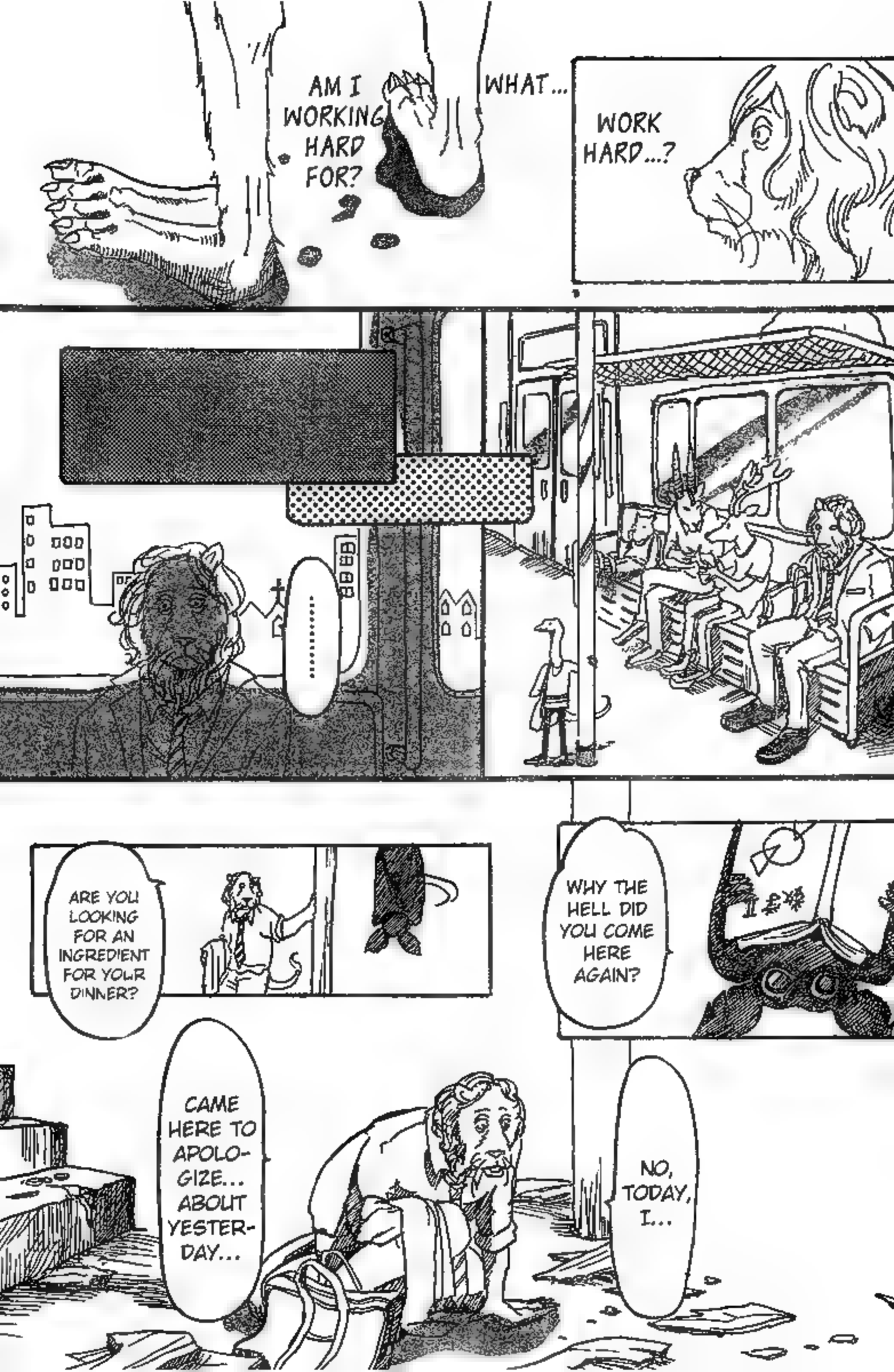
YOU MUST BE DESPERATE TO USE YOUR HUGE BODY TO HIDE THAT YOU'RE A COMPLETE NOBODY.
THAT'S WHY YOU ALWAYS ACT LIKE A KNOW-IT-ALL. WHY YOU MESS UP YOUR MANE EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOT FULLY GROWN YET. EVERYTHING IS ALL ABOUT YOU, YOU, YOU.
HEY ...
HEY!
YOU'LL DEGRADE YOUR-SELF INTO A WORTH-LESS MON-STER
AND WHEN YOU FINAL-LY GROW UP,
DON'T BULL-SHIT ME.
I'M A LION BEFORE I'M THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRES-IDENT.


HAHA ...
DON'T SCREW WITH ME.
I'M NOT GONNA TAKE THIS SHIT FROM A DAMN SHUT-IN.
DO YOU THINK I'M SCARED OF YOU?
I'M USED TO PREDATORS WITH YOUR FANGS, EYES, AND PANTING.
.....
W-WHAT'S THAT SUP-POSED TO MEAN ...?

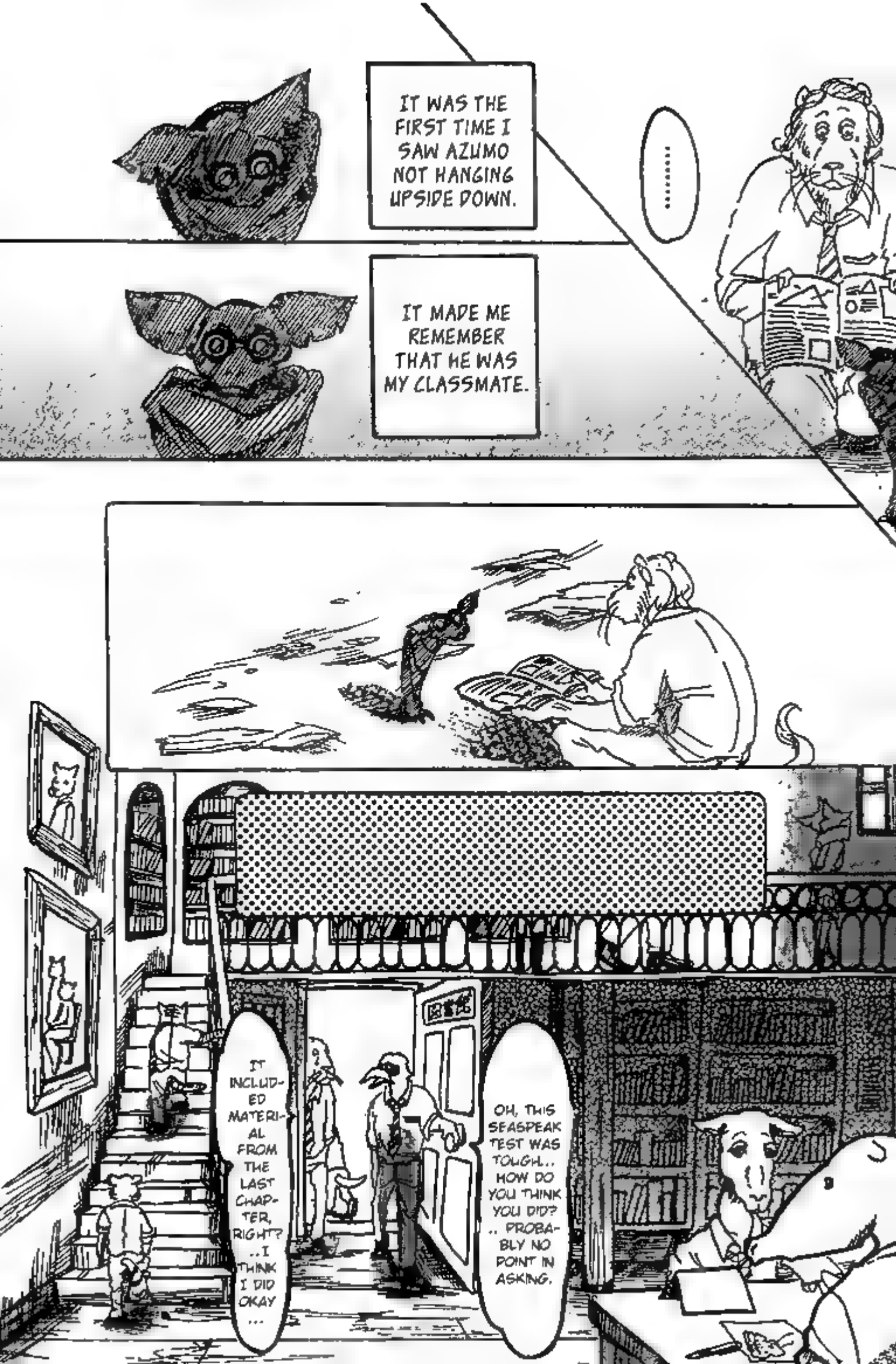
MY PARENTS WERE EATEN BY A LION LAST YEAR.
SO, I KNOW YOUR TRUE NATURE.
YOU'LL ALWAYS USE VIOLENCE AS YOUR LAST RESORT.

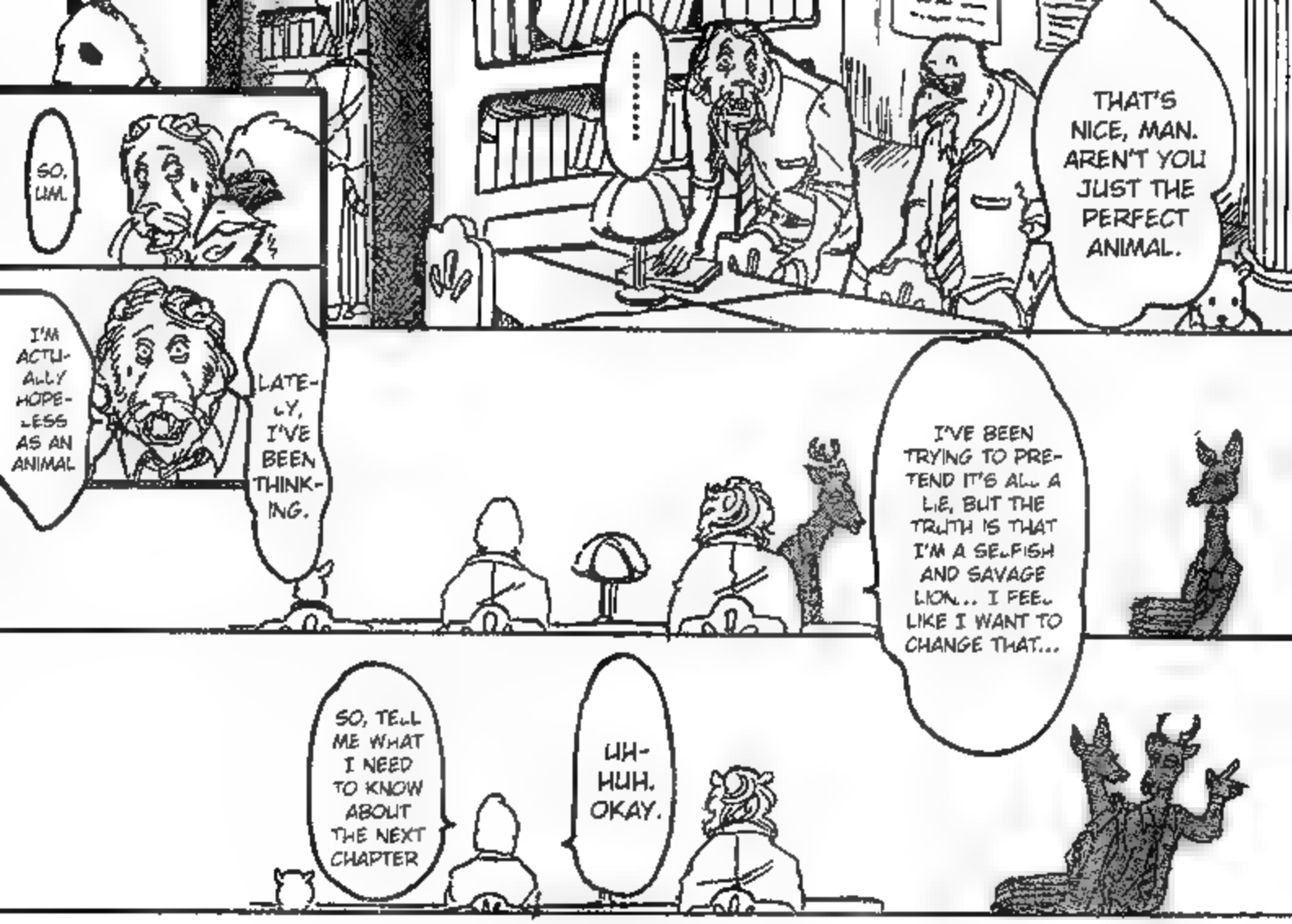
TRY AND SHOW EVERY-ONE IN SCHOOL
WHO YOU REALLY ARE.
YOU'LL FEEL MUCH BETTER ABOUT YOUR-SELF.
AFTER ALL, IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE
FOR A LION TO BE A HERO.
YOU'RE BETTER OFF
EATING ME WHOLE RIGHT NOW.

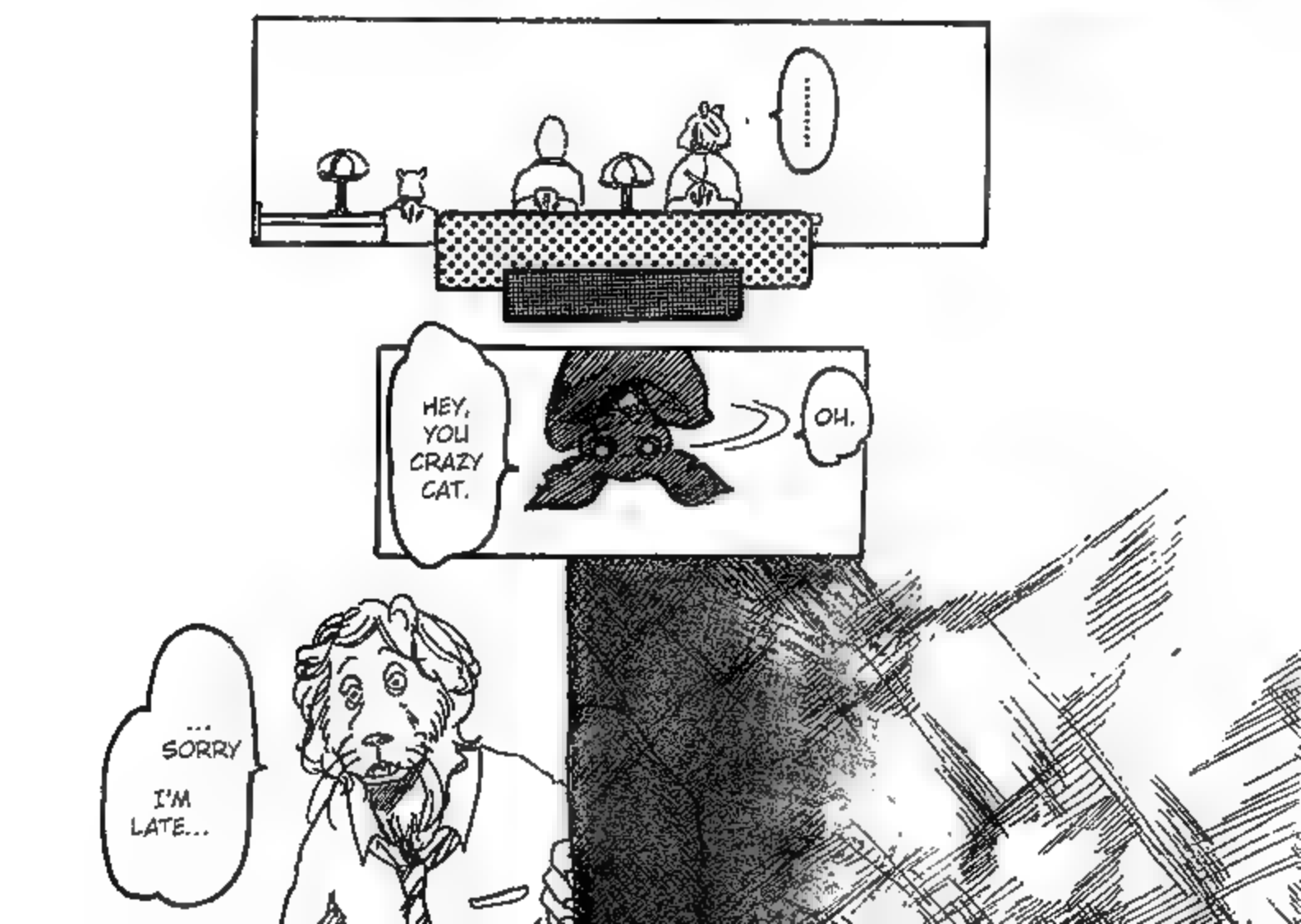
WHAT IF I DIDN'T CON-TROL MYSELF BACK THEN...?
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I BORE MY FANGS AGAINST ANYONE. I COULDN'T TALK BACK TO HIM..
I'LL WORK HARD...
I BET HE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE ME ANYMORE.. I'M NOT GONNA GO THERE ANYMORE.
UH-HUH.
YOU NEED TO DO YOUR BEST WITH THAT TEST COMING UP I EXPECT A LOT OF GREAT THINGS FROM YOU.
UH, YEAH...
RAUL. YOU'RE GOING TO CRAM SCHOOL TOMOR-ROW, SO YOU'LL NEED A LUNCH READY.

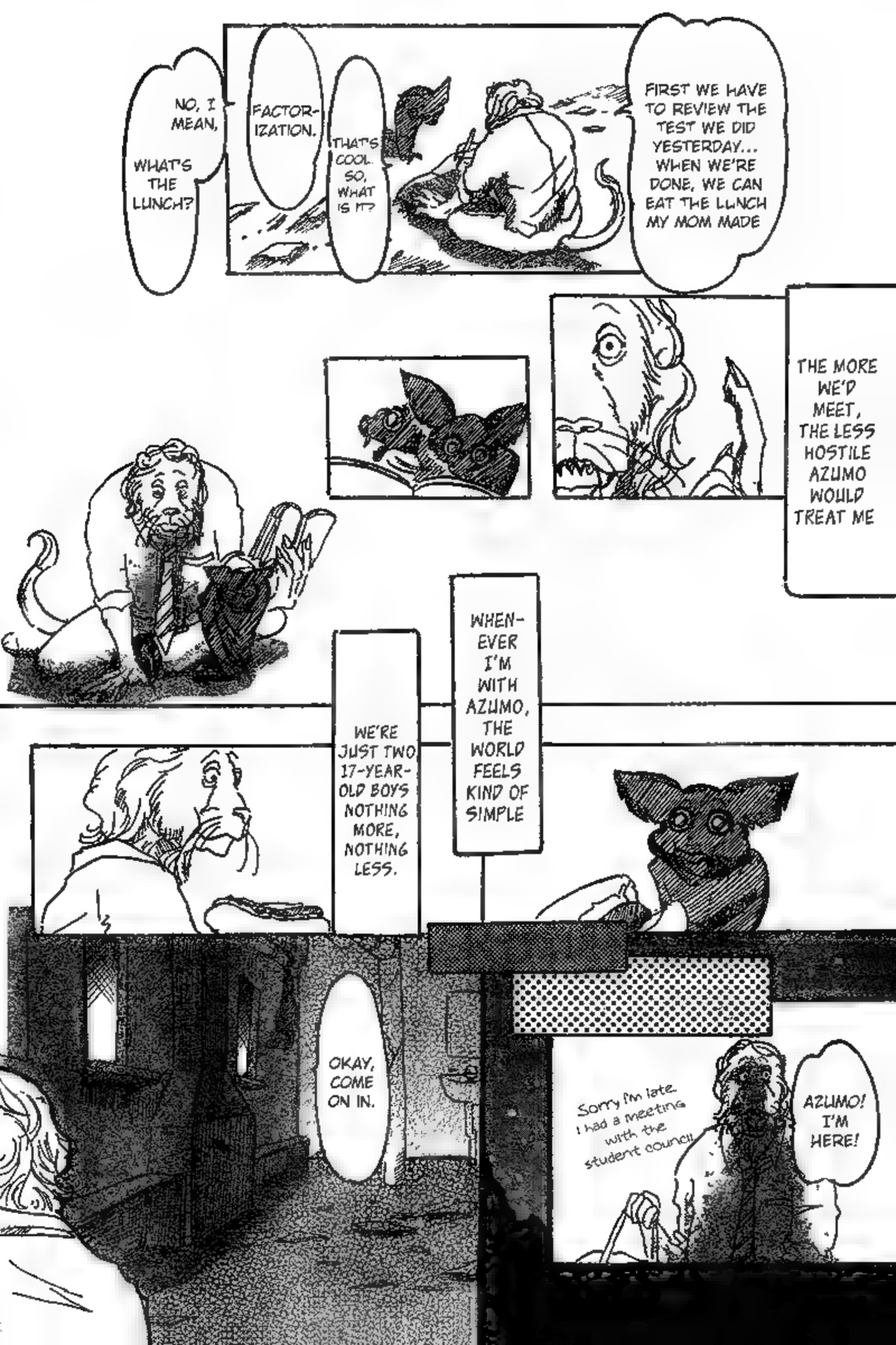

AM I WORKING HARD FOR?
WHAT...
WORK HARD...?
.....
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AN INGREDIENT FOR YOUR DINNER?
WHY THE HELL DID YOU COME HERE AGAIN?
CAME HERE TO APOLO-GIZE... ABOUT YESTER-DAY...
NO, TODAY, I...

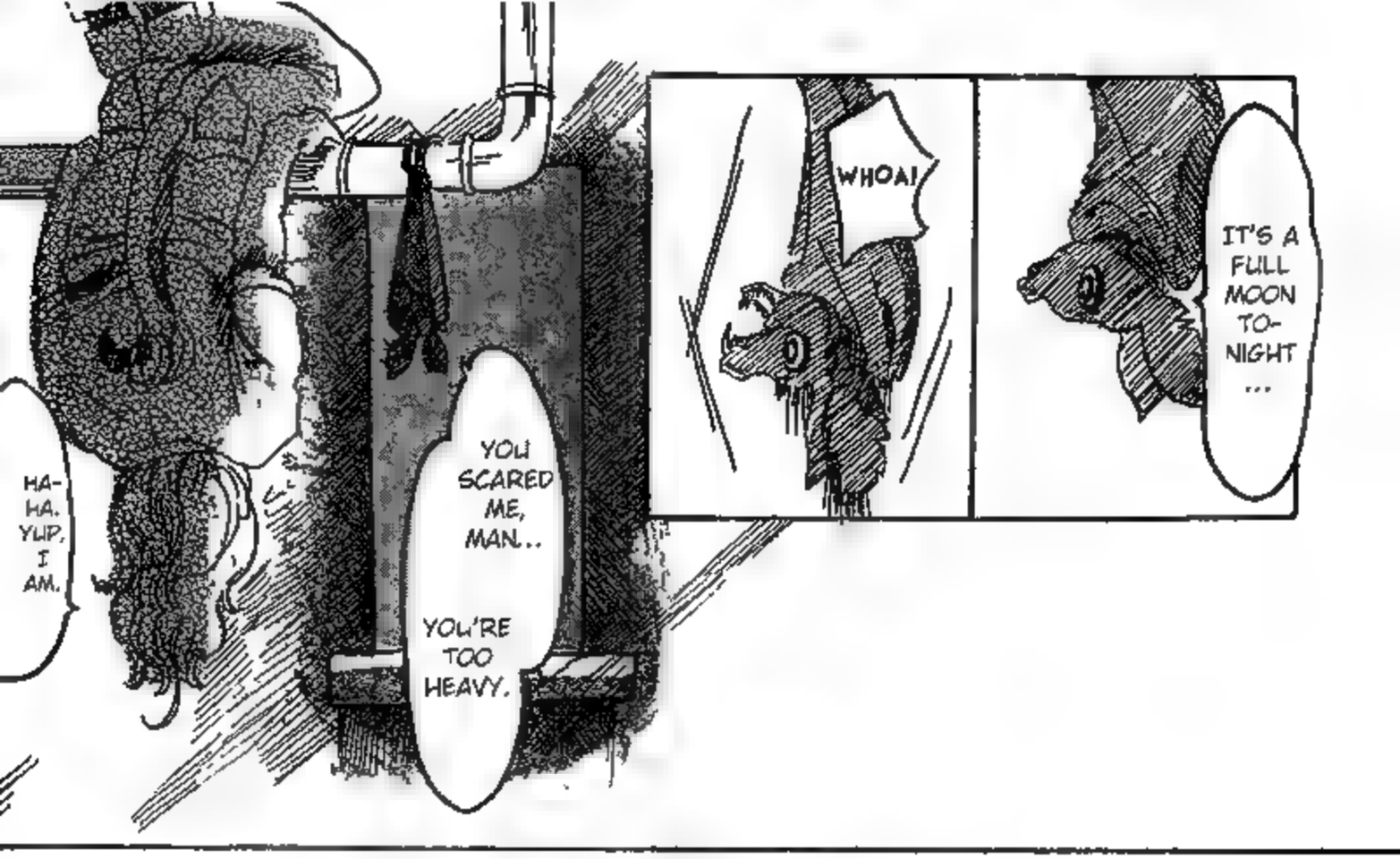
I'M REALLY SORRY THAT I ACTED SO VIOLENT TO YOU .
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT YOU WENT THROUGH ...
ALSO,
!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO COME TO SCHOOL ANYMORE ...
I'M NOT TRYING TO TRICK YOU OR ANY-THING.
W-WAIT ...
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU...?
IT'S JUST, YOU CAN ONLY GET SO FAR WITH SELF-STUDYING... I'LL LET YOU USE MY NOTES.
OKAY ?
THINK OF THIS AS AN APOLOGY ...
.....

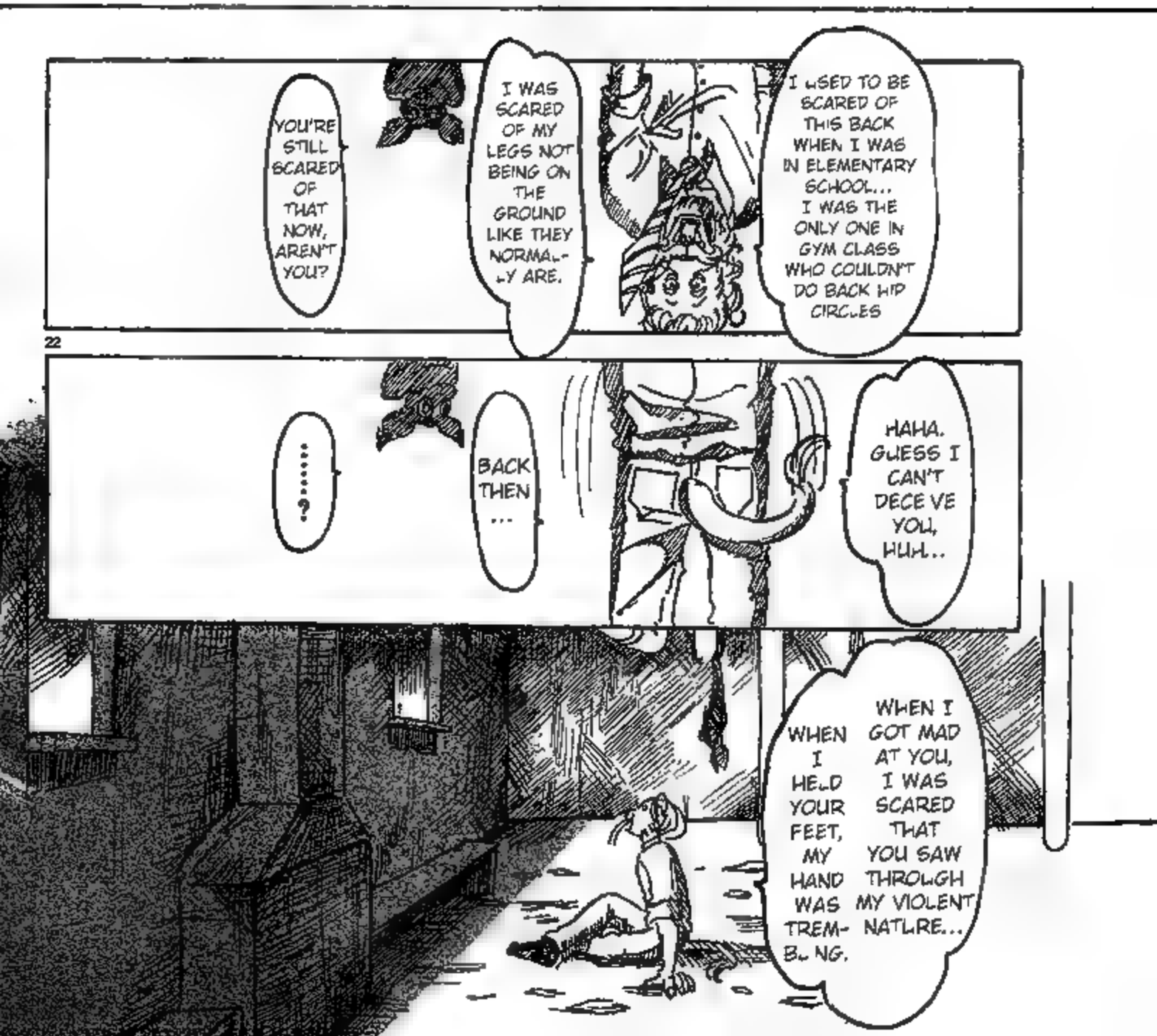

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I SAW AZUMO NOT HANGING UPSIDE DOWN.
IT MADE ME REMEMBER THAT HE WAS MY CLASSMATE.
.....
IT INCLUDED MATERIAL FROM THE LAST CHAPTER, RIGHT? ..I THINK I DID OKAY ...
OH, THIS SEASPEAK TEST WAS TOUGH.. HOW DO YOU THINK YOU DID? .. PROBABLY NO POINT IN ASKING.


SO, UM.
THAT'S NICE, MAN. AREN'T YOU JUST THE PERFECT ANIMAL.
I'M ACTUALLY HOPELESS AS AN ANIMAL
LATELY, I'VE BEEN THINKING.
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO PRETEND IT'S ALL A LIE, BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT I'M A SELFISH AND SAVAGE LION... I FEEL LIKE I WANT TO CHANGE THAT...
SO, TELL ME WHAT I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NEXT CHAPTER
UH-HUH. OKAY.


.....
HEY, YOU CRAZY CAT.
OH.
... SORRY I'M LATE...


NO, I MEAN, WHAT'S THE LUNCH?
FACTOR-IZATION.
THAT'S COOL. SO, WHAT IS IT?
FIRST WE HAVE TO REVIEW THE TEST WE DID YESTERDAY... WHEN WE'RE DONE, WE CAN EAT THE LUNCH MY MOM MADE
THE MORE WE'D MEET, THE LESS HOSTILE AZUMO WOULD TREAT ME
WHEN-EVER I'M WITH AZUMO, THE WORLD FEELS KIND OF SIMPLE
WE'RE JUST TWO 17-YEAR-OLD BOYS NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS.
OKAY, COME ON IN.
Sorry I'm late. I had a meeting with the student council
AZUMO! I'M HERE!

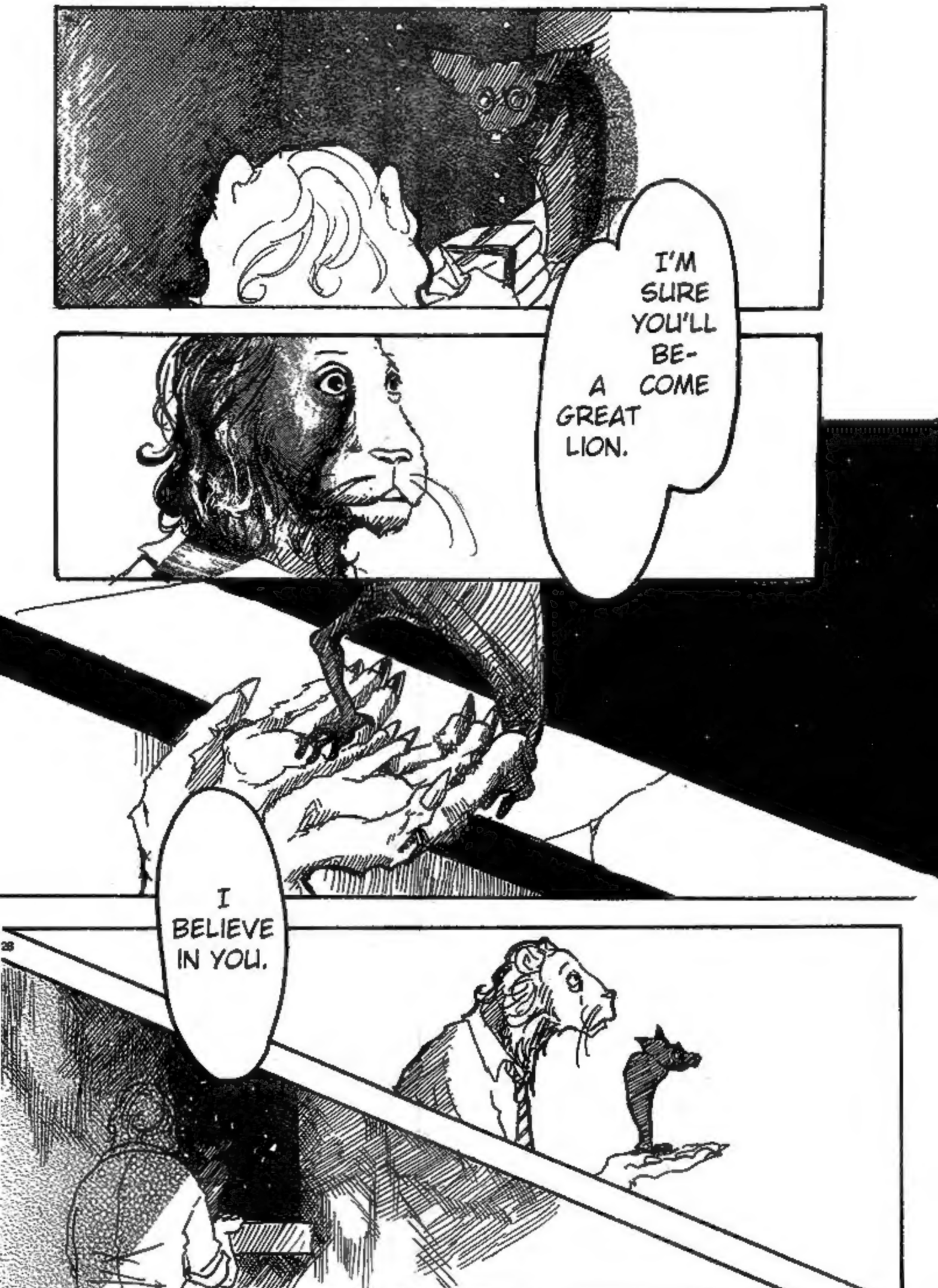

HA-HA. YUP, I AM.
YOU SCARED ME, MAN..
YOU'RE TOO HEAVY.
WHOA!
IT'S A FULL MOON TO-NIGHT ...

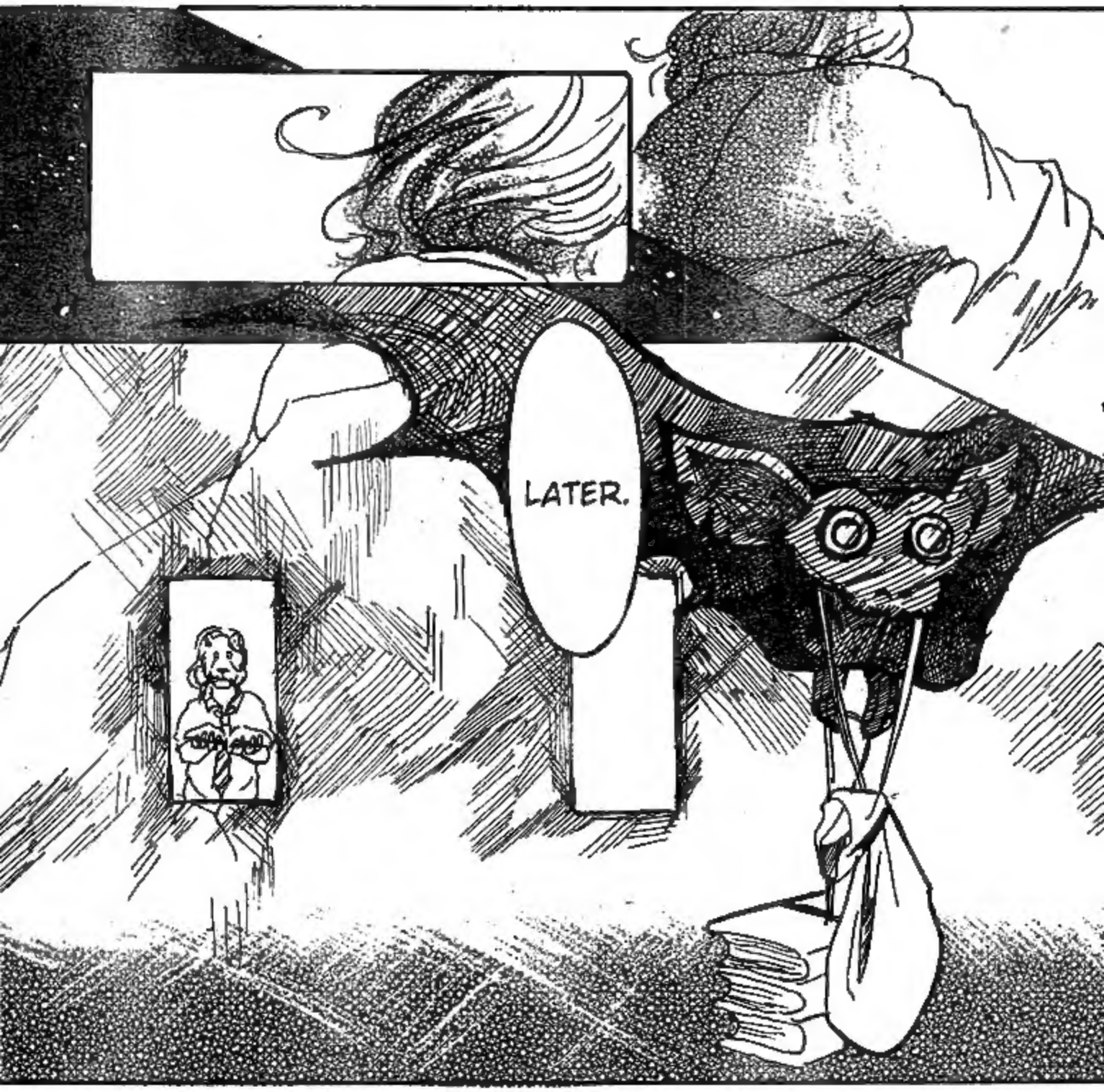

YOU'RE STILL SCARED OF THAT NOW, AREN'T YOU?
I WAS SCARED OF MY LEGS NOT BEING ON THE GROUND LIKE THEY NORMAL-LY ARE.
I USED TO BE SCARED OF THIS BACK WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL... I WAS THE ONLY ONE IN GYM CLASS WHO COULDN'T DO BACK HIP CIRCLES
22
.....?
BACK THEN ...
HAHA. GUESS I CAN'T DECEVE YOU, HUH..
WHEN I HELD YOUR FEET, MY HAND WAS TREM-BLING.
WHEN I GOT MAD AT YOU, I WAS SCARED THAT YOU SAW THROUGH MY VIOLENT NATURE...

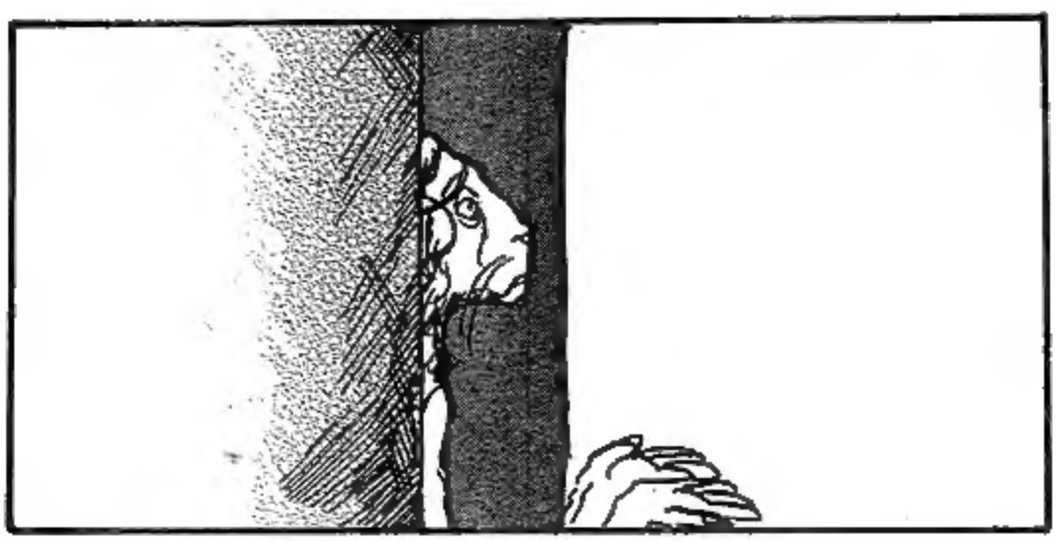
?
THAT PROB-ABLY...
WASN'T YOU TREM-BLING.
RAUL.
I WAS THE ONE TREMBLING,
THE TRUTH IS, I WAS SO SCARED I ALMOST CRIED...
23
I FELT LIKE I WANT-ED TO LIVE.
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE,
SINCE MY MOM AND DAD DIED.
I'VE NEVER FELT THAT WAY

AZUMO... BUT I'M REALLY ...
HUP.
YOU DON'T NEED TO LOOK AFTER ME ANYMORE. I'M NO LONGER A SAD BAT.
W-WAIT, WHAT'S WITH THE BAGS...?
.....
I'LL BE MOVING OUT OF THIS TOWN TONIGHT.

CON-
SIDER
THE
IRONY;
A LION
GIVING
ME
COUR-
AGE.
...
HUH?
25
.....
I'LL TELL
SENSEI
MYSELF,
SO YOU
CAN GO
WITHOUT
ANY
WORRIES!!
Y-
YOU'LL
BE
OKAY.
RAUL
...

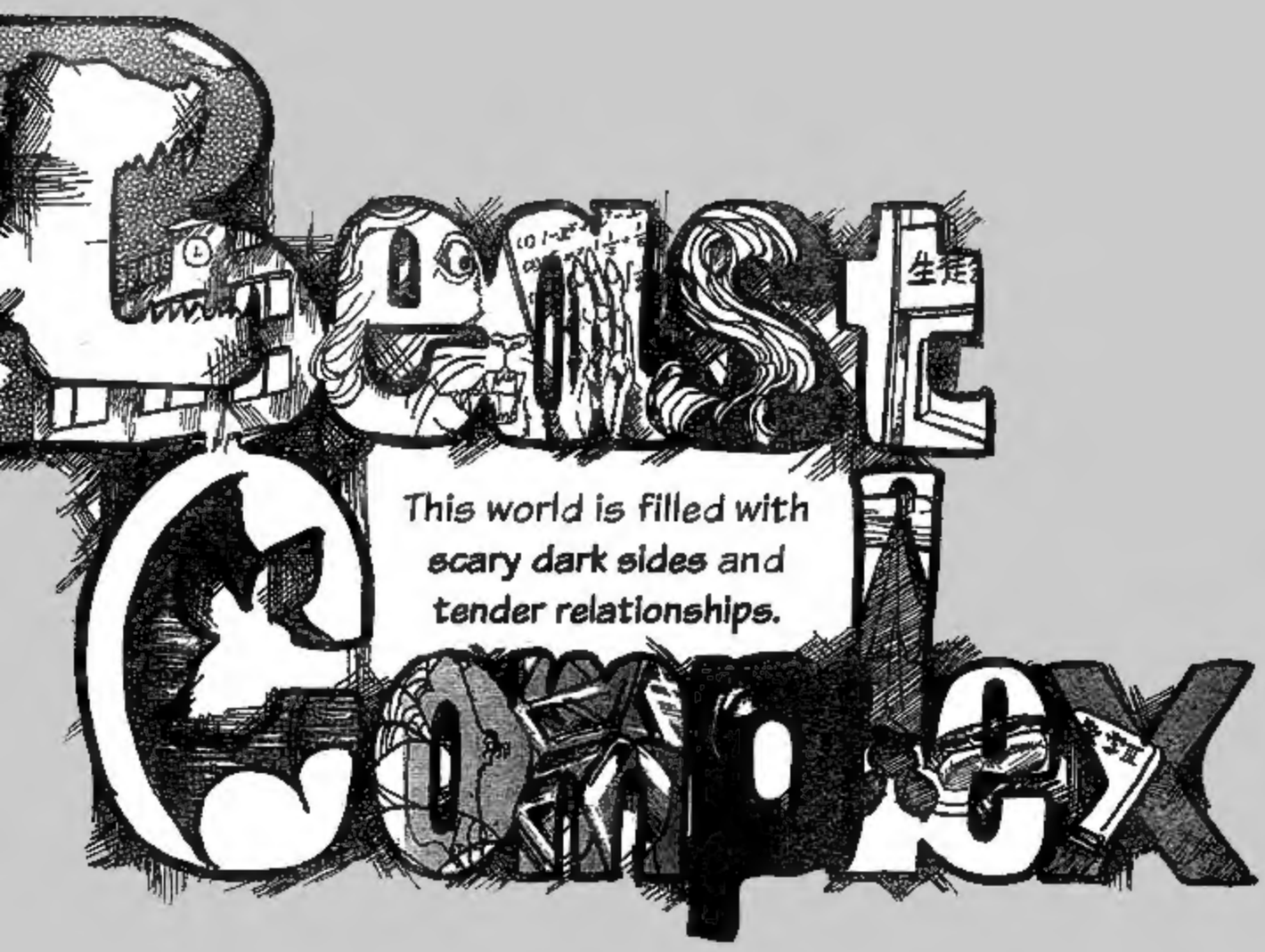

I'M SURE YOU'LL BECOME A GREAT LION.
I BELIEVE IN YOU.


LATER.



Though far apart,
they are still connected.
They await the day
they can meet again.

Hot Chocolate Scans



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